

TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS
Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen
Tuesday March 1, 2016

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in room C of the Ipswich Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Linda Alexson, Charles Surpitski, Michael Lambros, Brenda Turner, Wayne Castonguay and Bill Craft. Also present were Police Chief Paul Nikas and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste and David Swicker were not present.

Citizen's Queries: There were none.

Constable LaPreste was away attending the Shellfish Constable Conference last week and this week.

Ms. Alexson related an email from Constable LaPreste; the State appropriated \$15,000 for green crab trapping.

Chief Nikas spoke to the financial process of funds deposited into the General Fund to be used for the trapping program.

Mr. Surpitski asked the Chief to provide a report at the next meeting of the new deputy activities.

Private aquaculture discussion

Ms. Alexson initiated discussion of the three areas potentially available for private aquaculture; the State may test in the spring, will there be a lottery in the fall.

Mr. Surpitski responded in favor; he acknowledged there were obstacles, but it's a work in progress, it has the potential for success in the future and is worth it.

Mr. Lambros said for the record, he's in favor. In response to Ms. Alexson's query regarding the resignation of Evan Parker, Chief Nikas said he has not received an official notification.

Ms. Alexson voiced her opposition to private aquaculture grants citing fairness issues and the extra time taken from the Constable's schedule; his primary goal is enforcement.

Ms. Alexson initiated discussion regarding reconsidering the private grant process that has been in place for the past seven years. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons. The majority of members concurred to move forward without further deliberations.

Chief Nikas will check on the status of the survey request to DMF.

MOTION:

Mr. Craft moved the Shellfish Advisory Committee conduct a new lottery for private aquaculture in the Fall, date to be determined; subject to a milestone chart on how to proceed. Mr. Lambros seconded. The motion passed four in favor: Castonguay, Craft, Lambros and Surpitski, and two opposed: Alexson and Turner.

Old Business:

Ms. Alexson submitted a statement describing the enhancement fund titled Ipswich Shellfish Permit Enhancement Fund Purpose. Members reviewed and discussed the rationale and purpose for the Shellfish Enhancement Fund. The statement could be handed out by the Town Clerk with clamming licenses and would provide an explanation for the extra ten dollar a year increase to the recreational diggers.

MOTION:

Mr. Surpitski moved the Committee authorize and pass the statement of the titled Ipswich Shellfish Permit Enhancement Fund Purpose. Mr. Craft seconded, the motion passed five to one: Alexson, Turner, Castonguay, Craft, and Surpitski in favor, and Lambros opposed.

Mr. Lambros argued that no other committee has to do this and expressed his opposition, and said it was micro managing; he went on to say the enhancement fund has been in place since 2005 and opined there was no need for the statement.

Old Business:

In response to Ms. Alexson's query, Chief Nikas reported the meeting between town departments and Kevin McHugh did not take place last month due to bad weather and will be rescheduled.

New Business:

A visit from the Town Manager started an impromptu discussion regarding protocol about actions of the town when a resident reports sewage going into the river. Discussion was held regarding procedures in place, Emergency Management is writing a new protocol in order to have a more formal response. The town's insurance company was satisfied that the town acted responsibly and expeditiously.

Ms. Alexson noted the green crab stories in the Chronicle newspaper and the front page story awarding Mr. Castonguay the first conservation award from the Northeast Chapter of Trout Unlimited; all Congratulated Mr. Castonguay.

Committee reorganization:

Mr. Surpitski nominated Ms. Alexson to be Chair, seconded by Mr. Craft. As there were no other nominations, Mr. Craft moved nominations closed. Mr. Surpitski seconded. Ms. Alexson was unanimously voted to be Chair.

Ms. Alexson nominated Mr. Lambros to be Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Surpitski. As there were no other nominations, Mr. Craft moved nominations closed. Mr. Surpitski seconded. Mr. Lambros was unanimously voted to be Vice Chair.

Approval of minutes:

Mr. Castonguay moved to approve the minutes from January 5, 2016 meeting as revised. Mr. Lambros seconded, the motion passed unanimously. (hereby incorporated by reference)

Next Meeting –Tuesday, April 5, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. in Room A

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

These minutes were approved by the Committee on May 3, 2016

